(b) if so, whether the rival French and Canadian bidders have alleged foul play on the evaluation of bids and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the selection of Embraer is solely based on price considerations and whether technical superiority of other bids has also been taken into account?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only the Canadian firm had made a representation for re-evaluation of their aircraft Challenger 604 and the Canadian Special Edition. The Challenger 604 had earlier not been considered as it did not meet the laid down technical specifications. The firm had not offered the Canadian Special Edition in response to the tender. Hence only the Global Express of the Canadian firm was considered. Re-evaluation after opening of the commercial bids could not be agreed to.

(c) The aircrafts offered and short-listed after technical evaluation i.e. the French, Canadian and Brazilian firms were compared only on the commercial bids and the final selection of M/s. Embraer was done on the basis of the lowest price.

Demand for closure of DRDO

†2177. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have demanded for closure of Defence Research and Development Organisation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.